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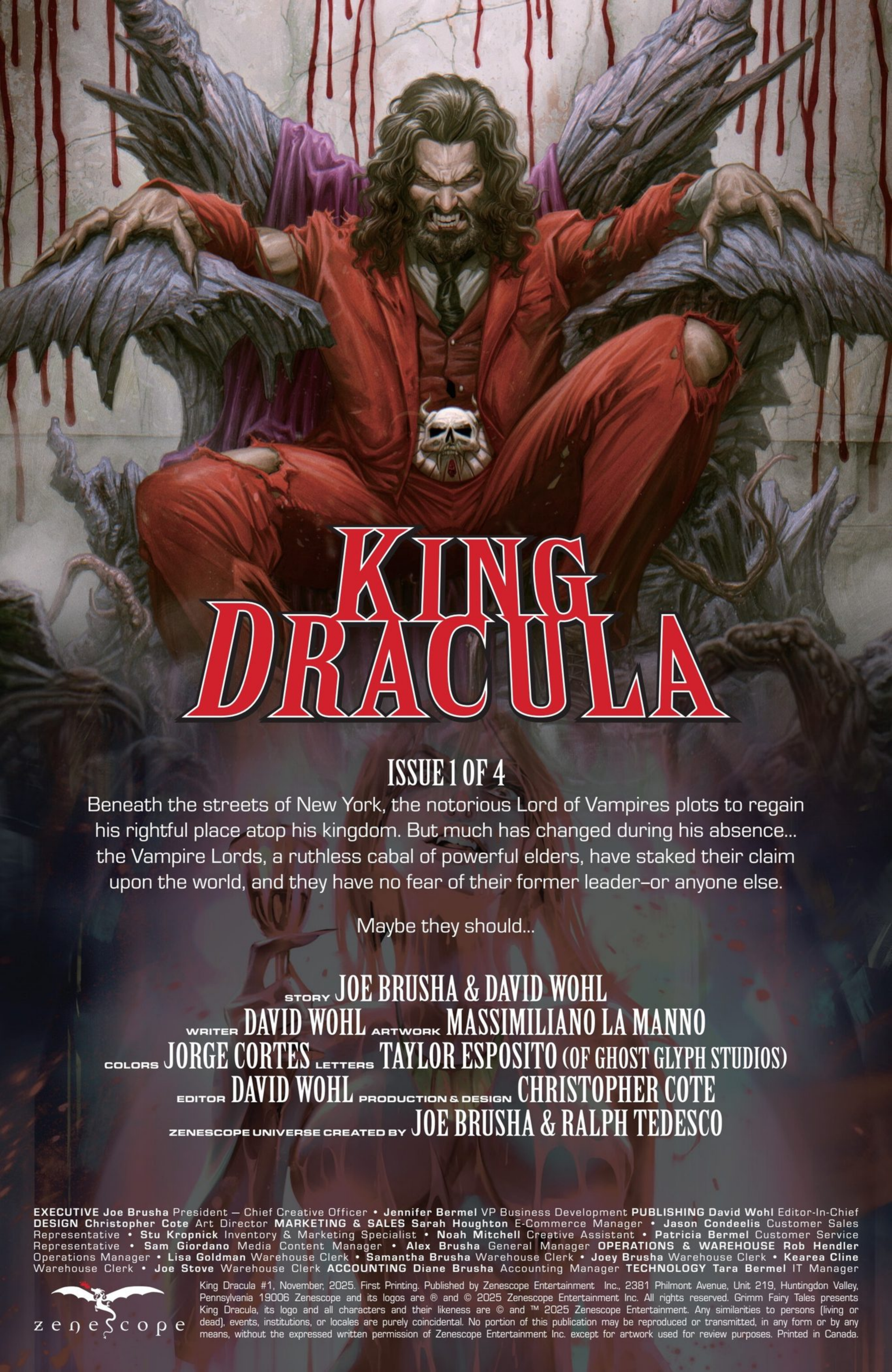
KING DRACULA



22 PAGES OF CONTENT!

WOHL • LA MANNO • CORTES • ESPOSITO

CAIO CACA



KING DRACULA

ISSUE 1 OF 4

Beneath the streets of New York, the notorious Lord of Vampires plots to regain his rightful place atop his kingdom. But much has changed during his absence... the Vampire Lords, a ruthless cabal of powerful elders, have staked their claim upon the world, and they have no fear of their former leader—or anyone else.

Maybe they should...

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Club Purgatory. Soho.
Last night.

OUR LORD DRACULA HAS RETURNED, AND I AM HIS VESSEL, ENTRUSTED TO BESTOW HIS MOST BEATIFIC GIFT TO THOSE I DEEM WORTHY.

ARE YOU READY TO PARTAKE OF THE UNHOLY ESSENCE, MISS CLARISSA?

I AM.

THIS IS THE MIDNIGHT SOCIETY.

ONE OF SEVERAL EXTREMELY EXCLUSIVE CLUBS IN NEW YORK CITY THAT CATER TO A VERY SPECIFIC CLIENTELE.

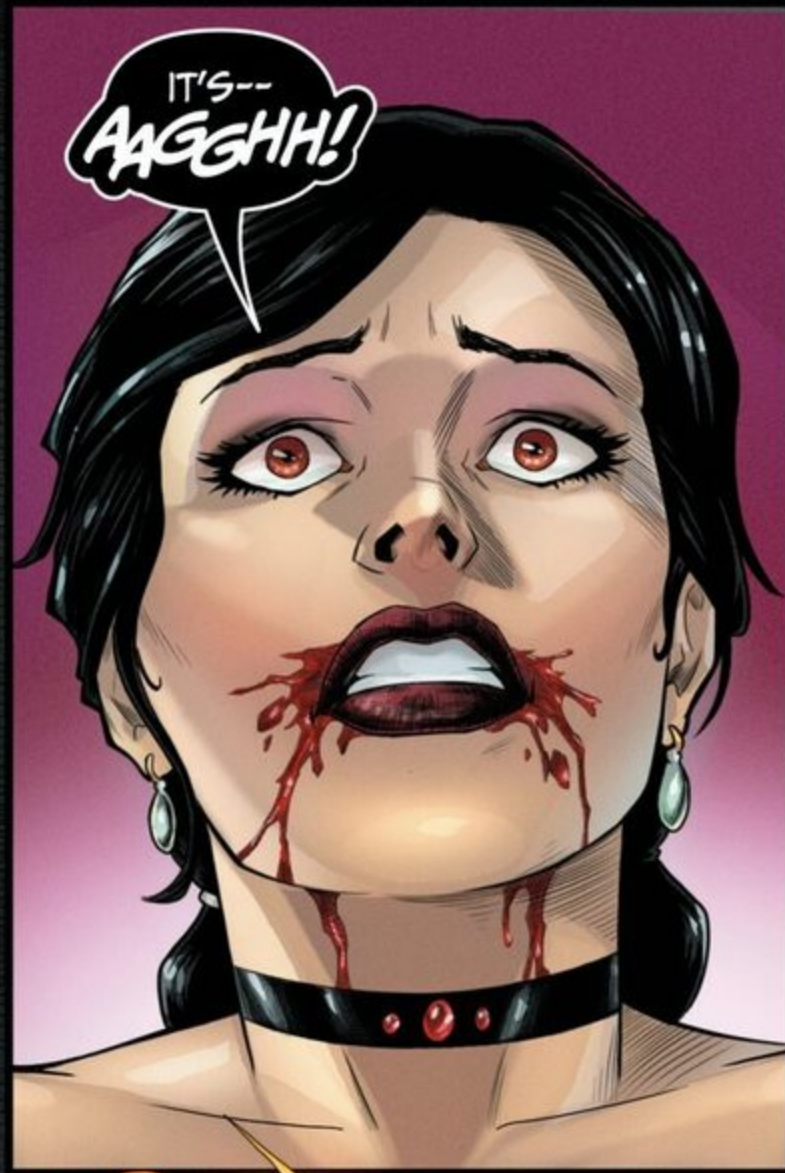
AND YOU SWEAR YOUR LOYALTY, YOUR FIDELITY, AND YOUR UNWAVERING ALLEGIANCE TO LORD DRACULA, LIEGE OF ALL VAMPIRES?

I AM HIS BODY AND SOUL.

DAGGER.

MAY THE MASTER'S LIFE FLOW THROUGH YOU.





THE DAMNED VAMPIRE LORDS SEND THEIR GOONS INTERRUPT MY CEREMONY?

CLARISSA, MY DEAR. STAY DOWN. WE SHALL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

BRAKKA

CLARISSA...

ROWWWRRR

BRAKKA

SHUNNKK



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THIS CAN'T BE. WE ARE UNDER THE LORD'S PROTECTION.



YOU WILL ALL PAY FOR--

YEAH... ABOUT THAT.

NOT SURE IF YOU HEARD THE NEWS, BUT YOUR LORD HAS BEEN, UM, WELL LET'S JUST SAY HE'S ABOUT TO BE REPLACED.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. HE'S THE KING. AND HIS RETURN HAS HERALDED A NEW AGE FOR ALL OF HIS CHILDREN!



THAT MAY BE TRUE, KIDDO...



...BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU THINK.



SHINNKKK



ALL RIGHT. THAT WAS FUN. BUT WE'RE ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE, SO LET'S GET TO WORK...

Beneath New York City.
Now.

THE HUNGER
IS REAL.

IT IS
DEEP...

SCRITCH

...PRIMAL.

IT PERVADES
HIS THOUGHTS.

IT CONSUMES HIS MEMORIES
OF WHAT HE ONCE WAS...

Then...

HE WAS A PRINCE.
THE MASTER OF
ALL HE SURVEYED.

VIOLENT, LUSTFUL. HE
BELIEVED THE WORLD
HIS TO CONQUER.

TURNED BY A VAMPIRIC CREATURE BEYOND
COMPREHENSION, HE LEARNED WHAT
POWER...AND CONQUEST...TRULY WERE.

BUT IN HIS QUEST TO RULE THE
WORLD, HE WAS DEFEATED BY HIS
HUBRIS--IN THE FORM OF LIESEL
VAN HELSING, VAMPIRE HUNTER.

DAMNED TO HELL,
HE ROSE AGAIN.

FROM TORTURED, TO
TORTURER, TO KING.

BUT HE LONGED
TO RETURN HOME
AND DISCOVERED
A WAY OUT...

...TO TAKE BACK
WHAT WAS HIS.*

*SEE GRIMM FAIRY TALES
HALLOWEEN 2025 PINUP
SPECIAL FOR THE STORY!

A GOAL THAT, THUS FAR,
LIES BEYOND HIS REACH.



SUPPLANTED
WITH THE
URGENCY OF
SURVIVAL.



HE IS STILL, AND
ALWAYS WILL BE, A
PREDATOR. PREY
IN SIGHT, HE ACTS.



SKREEEE



SPLOOOSH



NO.





EVEN AMONG
THE UNDEAD.

AND HE HAS AN
ADVANTAGE OVER
HIS PURSUERS.

FAMILIARITY.

WHERE'D
HE GO?

DON'T
SWEAT IT...

...DID
YOU SEE HIM?
HE'S BARELY
STANDING.

WE'LL
FIND HIM...





...AND
FINISH IT.

THIS, OBVIOUSLY,
IS NOT HOW HE
EXPECTED THINGS
WOULD GO...



...UPON HIS
RETURN, HE
CONTACTED HIS
MOST TRUSTED
SERVANTS,
EXPECTING
THEY'D REJOICE.

MY...
KING.

LUCY WESTENRA, HIS CLOSEST
LIEUTENANT FOR CENTURIES,
SINCE HE'D TURNED HER IN THE
AGE OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

I APPRECIATE
YOU MEETING ME HERE,
LUCY. WE HAVE MUCH TO
DISCUSS. BUT WHERE IS
LORD ALDANE? YOU
REACHED OUT TO HIM
AS I ASKED?

ALDANE IS
DEAD, AT THE
HANDS OF VAN
HELING.

DAMN.
WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHERS?

MY LORD, YOU
MUST KNOW I AM
OVERJOYED THAT
YOU'VE RETURNED
TO US.

BUT... I TRULY
WISH YOU HADN'T
CONTACTED ME.

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

BELIEVE ME
WHEN I SAY I'M
TRULY SORRY,
MY LORD...

...BUT THE
OTHERS...

...THEY
MADE A
BETTER
OFFER.



HE AWAKENED DEEP WITHIN AN
ABANDONED PORTION OF THE NEW
YORK CITY SEWER SYSTEM...



...IMPRISONED BY THE VERY VAMPIRE
LORDS WHO ONCE SERVED HIM.

HAILING FROM DIFFERENT
ERAS AND LOCATIONS, THEY
CAME NOT TO FOLLOW HIM...

...BUT TO SACRIFICE THEIR
ERSTWHILE KING TO SUMMON
A NEW AND GREATER MASTER:

VYROKALAS, THE
RED GOD, SIRE
OF ALL VAMPIRES.



WITH THE EXTREMELY
LIMITED RESOURCES
AT HIS DISPOSAL, HE
REACHED OUT TO THE
ONE PERSON HE
TRUSTED TO AID HIM:



LIESEL VAN HELSING.
ONCE HIS KILLER...



...NOW HIS
RELUCTANT
SAVIOR.



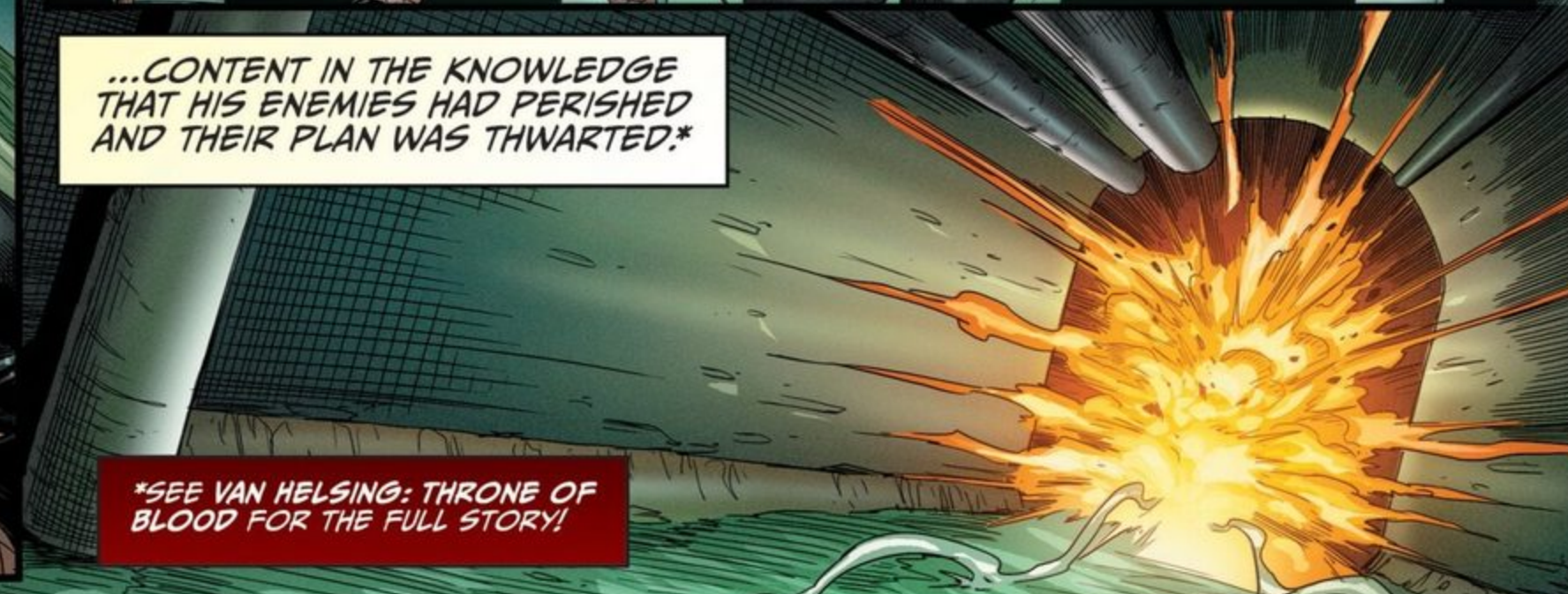
WHILE SHE ENGAGED
WITH HIS CAPTORS, HE
FREED HIMSELF...



...AND
FLED...



...CONTENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT HIS ENEMIES HAD PERISHED
AND THEIR PLAN WAS THWARTED.*



*SEE VAN HELSING: THRONE OF
BLOOD FOR THE FULL STORY!

HE BELIEVED HE WAS FREE.
BUT THE SURVIVING VAMPIRE
LORDS PROCEEDED WITH
THEIR PLAN UNABATED.

THEY TENACIOUSLY
HUNTED HIM, HIRING
HUMAN MERCENARIES
TO ASSIST THEM IN
THEIR DIRTY WORK.

ANYONE
HAVE EYES
ON THE
TARGET?

STARVED AND FORCED TO
RETREAT BACK INTO THE
SEWERS, HE FED UPON
THE VERMIN TO SURVIVE.

BUT NOW, IT
WASN'T JUST
THE NEED TO
LIVE THAT
DROVE HIM...

NEGATIVE,
CHIEF.

...HE WAS DRIVEN
BY SOMETHING
MUCH GREATER:

JUST
STAY ALERT,
DEAN.

FURY...

HE'S A
KILLER.

SURE
HE IS.

...AT THOSE WHO
BETRAYED, HUNTED, AND
UNDERESTIMATED HIM.





KELLY,
COME IN.

I'M
HERE.



KLIK

DO ME A FAVOR
AND CHECK ON
DEAN. MAKE SURE
HE STAYS OUT OF
TROUBLE.

ON IT.

AND
ALL OF YOU
PLEASE TRY
TO REMEMBER
THIS THING...



SKRITCH

...IS STILL
DANGEROUS.



HMM.

SKRITCHSHH



SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

⚡GASP⚡

JESUS.



ANYONE
HAVE EYES ON
DEAN OR THE
GODDAMMED
TARGET?

NOT YET.
GETTING
NERVOUS,
CHIEF?



SHIT! WE HAVE CONTACT! JACKSON, REPORT TO MY POSITION! KELLY, FIND DEAN AND GET BACK HERE!

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA





RARRGGHHHHH!





DIE!



JACKSON, CHIEF. THE TARGET TURNED DEAN. HE'S STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT. BE CAREFUL! I'M COMING TO YOU.

DAMMIT.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE KILLED HIM.

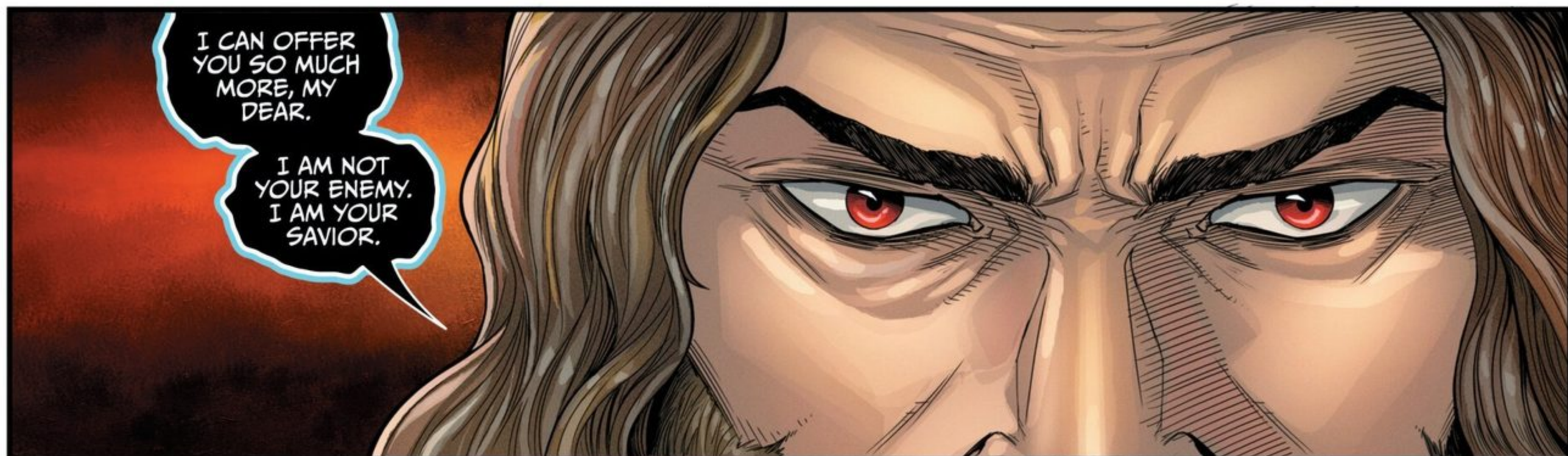


I RESCUED HIM FROM A MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE.

AND I CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

YOU BASTARD. I'M GONNA KILL YOU.

BUT IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT?



I CAN OFFER
YOU SO MUCH
MORE, MY
DEAR.

I AM NOT
YOUR ENEMY.
I AM YOUR
SAVIOR.



KELLY!
YOU IN
THERE?

HE
IS YOUR
ENEMY...



KELLY!

HOLY
SHIT! I'M
GLAD TO SEE
YOU IN ONE
PIECE!

THAT
THING
GOT THE
CHIEF,
TOO.



ARE YOU
OKAY?



MY
GOD.

DID
YOU DO
THIS?



DID YOU SEE IT? DO YOU
KNOW WHICH WAY IT WENT?
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF
HERE. REINFORCEMENTS
ARE ALREADY EN
ROUTE.



YOU
ARE THE
ENEMY.

WHAT?



≡GASP≡

SKOOSH!!!



I'M SORRY.



NO
NEED TO
APOLOGIZE,
MY DEAR.

DID I DO
WELL, MY
LORD?

YES.
VERY
WELL.

NOW, CAN
YOU TELL ME
WHO SENT
YOU?



OUR
TEAM TAKES
ORDERS FROM
THE VAMPIRE
LORD CALLED
BELLA.

BUT YOU MUST
BEWARE. HER
KIND WILL NOT
RELENT UNTIL
YOU ARE
DEAD.

THEY
WILL KEEP
HUNTING YOU
FOREVER.



THEN
I SHALL TAKE
THE FIGHT TO
THEM!

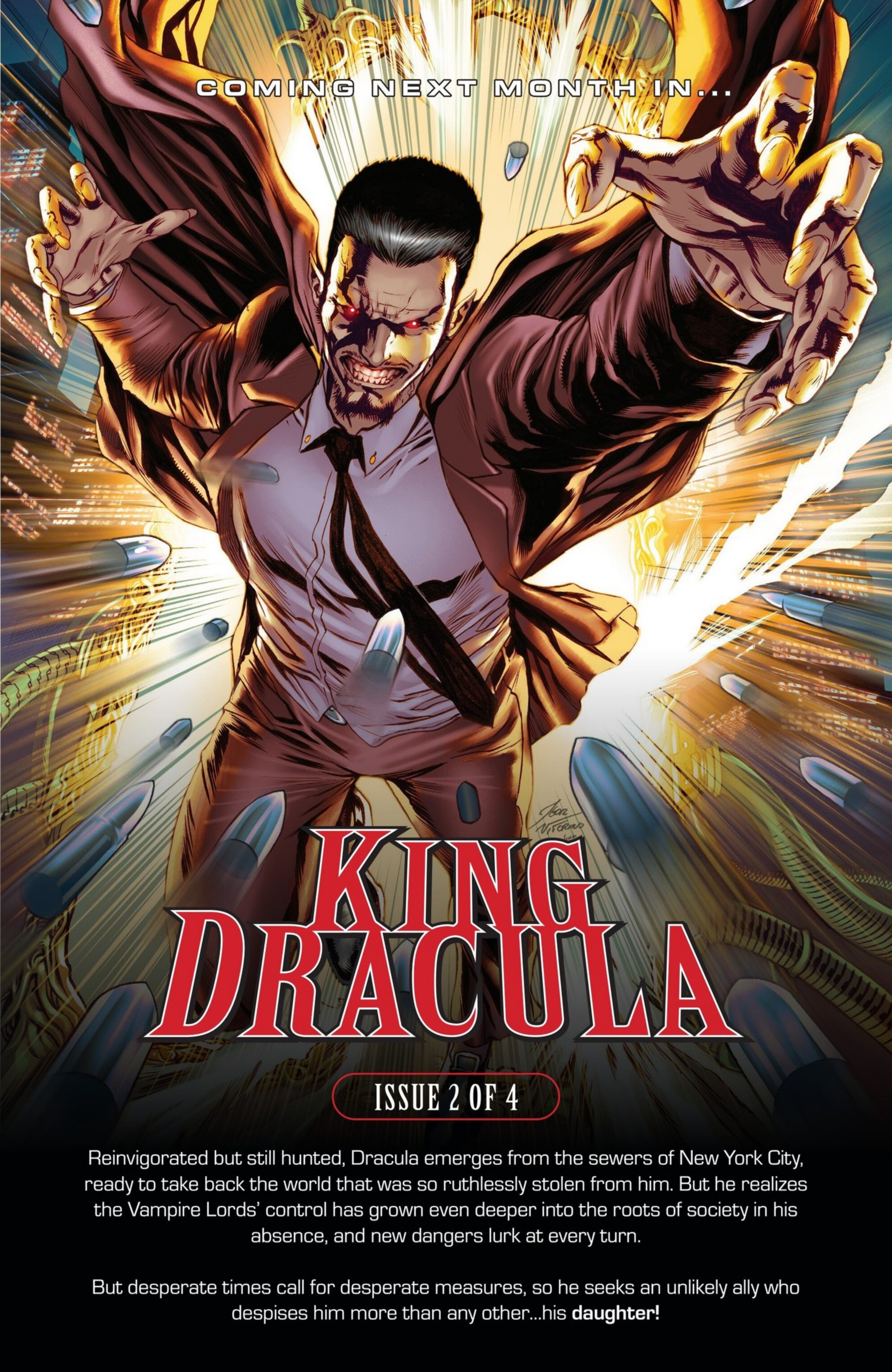
AND SINCE
THEY HAVE
FORGOTTEN, I
SHALL REMIND
THEM WHO
I AM.



I AM KING
DRACULA!

AND I HAVE
RETURNED!

To be continued...



COMING NEXT MONTH IN...

KING DRACULA

ISSUE 2 OF 4

Reinvigorated but still hunted, Dracula emerges from the sewers of New York City, ready to take back the world that was so ruthlessly stolen from him. But he realizes the Vampire Lords' control has grown even deeper into the roots of society in his absence, and new dangers lurk at every turn.

But desperate times call for desperate measures, so he seeks an unlikely ally who despises him more than any other...his **daughter!**

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AND NO ONE IS SAFE.



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